

Dear Sir:

I am writing this as a concerned American citizen and a subscriber of XM Radio, and also as a professional. What concerns me is the NAB's recent attempts to shut down XM Radio's local traffic and weather channels. I am in outside sales, and all day long I drive from appointment to appointment throughout the Washington DC/Northern VA area. If it's midday and I want to know whether to avoid certain roads when going from place to place, I turn to XM's DC local traffic, where I can get updates on jams and tafffic flow repeated and updated about every 5 minutes. This level of service greatly enhances my productivity and probably lessens gridlock to some extent throughout the area. It disturbs me that the NAB, who cannot come close to providing this level of service to me, wants to take this service away, simply because it may hurt their ratings. First of all, do they have a right to continued profitability if their product and/or offerings become stale and outmatched? Did the makers of BetaMax have that right? Of course not. The nature and essence of free trade is competition, and it is that competition that keeps Americans striving to create innovative products to greater meet the needs and desires of the American public. It would be a travesty if the NAB were to succeed in stifling such a beneficial tool that enhances not only my productivity, but I'm sure that of thousands of other businesspeople in my area. It would be akin to dial up internet providers being able to limit what kinds of services broadband providers could offer, simply so they could continue to profit without improving their product to become competitive. Thank you for listening to my opinion in this matter, I am sure you will come to the right decision that will benefit the American public as a whole rather than a lobby seeking a stranglehold on a market.

Respectfully,

Ryan Walker